



CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY

SUMMER CAMP 2018



Ways to Involve Your Congregation!

Camp offers a strong faith experience to your youth. It can become even stronger if your congregation integrates the camp experience into the life of the church. Below are some ideas for ways that you can help the campers to transition their camp experience into their everyday faith experience with your congregation.

Send Them with a Blessing

Send the campers to camp with your blessing. Give them a sense that the congregation stands by them and is excited that they are going to camp by including a sending service in your Sunday worship. Some resources are provided on this webpage.

Have a Pre and Post Camp Session

Before they leave for camp, have the campers write a short description of what they think of when they think of when they think of prayer. When they return, have them read those again and discuss how their perceptions have changed or grown.

Set up a Prayer and Mail Campaign

Ask members of your congregation to write your campers letters and pray for them daily. Campers love mail, especially "snail mail". Imagine their reaction to receiving letters from members of your congregation while they are at camp from people who are praying for them! Send letters very early or bring them with you to distribute to your campers at camp.

Welcome Them Back and Let Them Share with the Congregation!

Set up a time for the youth to tell your congregation about camp! Give them a few minutes to share at worship, ask them to lead next year's Lenten services, have them share their experience with younger youth in Sunday school, or let them lead a whole camp-style service!

Have a Family Faith Night Focused on Prayer

Invite the families of campers, and any interested folks from your congregation or community, to a family faith night. You can begin with some camp games or singing, and then have the youth share what they learned on each day of camp. You can even have an open the mike for anyone else who wants to share how prayer has been a part of their life.

Have the Campers Make a Video!

Have the campers make a video in which they try to convince others how important it is to pray. It can even be a music video if they choose!

Host a Community Prayer Time

Have the campers discuss how they could welcome people from the community to church to pray. Then give them the lead to make it happen!

Sending Worship Resources

It is crucial to connect the camp experience to the campers' home congregation. One great way to do that is to have a sending service and commission the campers as they depart. For those who are attending camp it is a great way to set the expectations for their experience. For those not able to go to camp, it is a wonderful way to encourage them to be a part of the experience before, during and after and recognize the role of the youth in the church. Below are some ideas and resources for you to use with this year's theme of Here I am!, which focuses on prayer. Choose what will work best in your congregation and have fun!

Call to Worship

L: This is the day that God has made: let us rejoice, and celebrate, and have fun in it.

C: God, we thank you for this day. Amen

Songs

- Here I am Lord
- I Don't Know What You Came to Do
- Trumpet Sounds (Psalm 150)
- Be Bold
- Holy Time (Dance with Me)

Scripture Readings

Our Bible Study this summer is focusing on pray and the different types of prayer. We are using prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. Every day we will also have a time to look at the Lord's Prayer. Here are some of the verses we are using.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Matthew 6:7-15

Litany

L: Creator God, we pray this morning for all of the church camps and retreat centers of Cross Trails Ministry.

C: God, we pray for camp and campers.

L: We pray for all of the directors, staff and volunteers who work to make your love evident in the Cross Trails programs.

May you give guidance, insight, and wisdom as they plan this summer.

C: God, we pray for camp and campers.

L: We pray for all those who will come and see you through one of these camps. May they know your love and grace for each of them.

C: God, we pray for camp and campers.

L: For the children who will experience your creation this summer. For the campers who will experience love and acceptance.

C: God, we pray for camp and campers.

L: For the adults who will have their faith journey strengthened. For the youth who will come to know you more deeply,

C: God, we pray for camp and campers.

L: For all the friendships that will be made and strengthened. For all who will serve and will offer others Christ.

C: God, we pray for camp and campers.

L: We give you thanks, O God. May your blessing be on our summer camps in this coming year, and may you receive the glory.

C: God, we pray for camp and campers.

Blessing of the Campers

After church today, we will send _____ people to camp at (Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch, Beach Camp, Urban Plunge, Texas Trek). As I read their names, will they please come forward.

(Address the campers)

You are about to leave for camp, and it is our prayer that it will be an experience that will help you to see yourself and God in new ways as you grow in your faith. This summer's theme is "Here I am". It is focused on prayer. You will learn how you can grow with God through prayer. of praise, confession, and thanksgiving. You will learn to pray without ceasing as you share your needs with God, and pray for others as well as give thanks, confess and praise.

We, your family here at (church's name), want to send you with our blessing. I am going to ask you some questions. Please reply with "I will and I ask God to help me.":

- Will you participate fully and openly in the life of the camp?
- Will you try something new and encourage others to explore and discover more about themselves and God?
- Will you bring back your new learning and experiences and share them with us?

(Address the congregation)

Please stand and face these young people. You are invited to answer the following questions with "We will and we ask God to help us."

- Will you pray for these young people while they are at camp that they may have faith-filled fun as they learn?
- Will you pray for the staff and adults who are guiding their experience at camp that God may work through them?
- Will you accept with joy and thanksgiving these campers' learning and excitement upon their return home, and allow them to share it with you, that you may also grow in faith through their experience?

Prayer: Holy God, our beginning and our end, we know you desire to grow with us through prayer. We offer our thanks and praise for your steadfast love and faithful presence with us, and we ask that you be with these young people as they travel to camp to grow with you and learn more of their mission in the world. Keep them safe and open to your will and let them return to us to renew our congregation in hope. Amen.

Offering

Take a special offering on this Sunday to either give as a gift to camp or to have campers take with them to give to Cross Trails Ministry's summer offering

Benediction

L: Go in peace and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God...And we will!